

Application No.: 10/659569
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REMARKS

Claims 33-38 remain pending in the present application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Civardi et al. '223**In view of Civardi et al. '415**

Claims 33-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent no. 4,122,223 (Civardi et al. '223) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,637,415 (Civardi '415). Applicants traverse this basis for rejection and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

The present claims are directed to a method for curing a chemical agent deposited on a multiple component nonwoven fabric, as set forth in claim 33. The Examiner's attention is directed to Applicants' definition of "multiple component nonwoven fabric" at page 6 of the specification.

Neither of Civardi et al. '223 or Civardi '415 is analogous art to the present claims. Civardi et al. '223 is directed to making synthetic leather materials by depositing a synthetic leather polymer onto a woven fabric backing, wherein the woven fabric is subjected to napping (col. 1, lines 15-25; lines 50-56). In fact, Civardi et al. '223 seeks to avoid the use of nonwoven fabrics altogether (col. 4, lines 26-29).

The Examiner directs attention to Example 1 of Civardi et al. '223 (col. 8, lines 51 et seq.) as support for the rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that Example 1 of Civardi et al. '223 is completely unrelated to the process of present claim 33. Civardi et al. '223 discloses deposition of a polyurethane film first onto a sheet of embossed release paper (col. 8, lines 51-56), followed by lamination of the polyurethane film onto a microporous elastomeric polyurethane sheet (col. 8, lines 62-68), applying an adhesive to the microporous elastomeric polyurethane sheet and laminating it to a sheet of cotton sateen fabric (col. 9, lines 6-15), and finally peeling away the release paper (col. 9, lines 26-27). Nowhere do Civardi et al. disclose or suggest curing a chemical agent deposited on a multiple component nonwoven fabric, as claimed herein.

The Examiner directs attention to column 5, lines 25-47 of Civardi '415 for the proposition that the sheet of polyurethane used in Civardi et al. '223 is a multiple component nonwoven fabric. At that point, Civardi '415 discloses that blends of polyurethanes with other polymers can be used in his invention. However, the

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Examiner's attention is directed to column 4, lines 61-68, wherein Civardi '415 discloses that his polyurethane microporous sheet is a film. Likewise, Civardi '415 indicates that his polyurethane is a film again at column 5, line 6. Civardi '415 fails to disclose or suggest the use of a multiple component nonwoven fabric. In fact, similar to the disclosure of Civardi et al. '223, Civardi '415 prefers not to incorporate a reinforcing fabric, such as a woven or nonwoven fabric (col. 2, lines 49-52).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that neither cited reference, either alone or in combination, is even relevant to the present invention, let alone would make obvious the present invention.

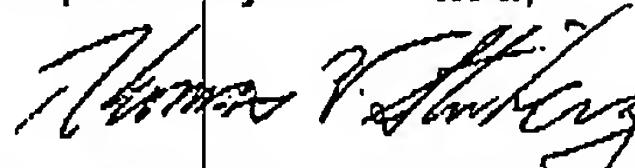
Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is requested.

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In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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